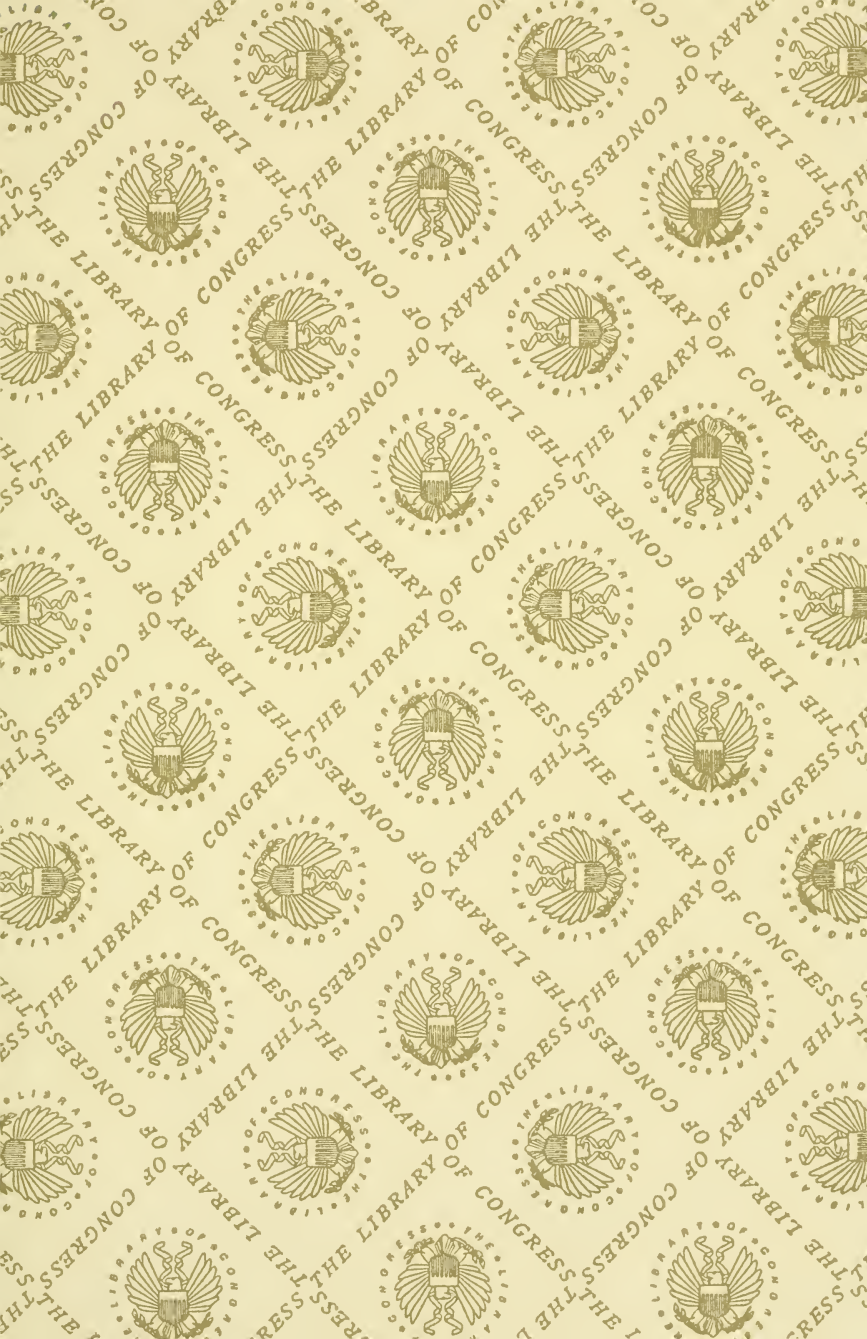


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A GUIDE-BOOK

TO

NORUMBEGA AND VINELAND;

OR,

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL TREASURES ALONG  
CHARLES RIVER.

BY

ELIZABETH G. SHEPARD.



BOSTON:

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TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
EBEN NORTON HORSFORD,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME,  
WHICH HE SO WARMLY WELCOMED  
AND ENDORSED,  
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.



## ROUTE BY CARS.

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Site of Leif's house.—Site of Thorfinn's house and of his huts.—Fish-pits.—Thorfinn's Landing.—Promontory at the south-west.

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A GUIDE-BOOK  
TO  
NORUMBEGA AND VINELAND.

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FROM time to time the knowledge has come to us of wonderful archæological discoveries made along the Charles River, and from our conservatism and inertia we are only just awakening to the fact that they are most interesting and fascinating. We have become anxious to see the evidences that have lain so long at our feet, and which might have been forever unheeded and unknown but for the patient and untiring industry of that eminent scholar, Professor Eben Norton Horsford, who has made clear and intelligible to us what was hitherto obscure and uncertain, and who has warmed our indifference into enthusiasm.

It is the purpose of this little volume to guide all who may wish to follow his footsteps over the ground he has opened and prepared for us, and enjoy the fruit of his labor and research.

Just at this time, when we are in the midst of such stupendous preparations for the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of this continent by Christopher Columbus, it in nowise detracts from his glory to contemplate the voyages made at a far earlier period by the Norsemen.

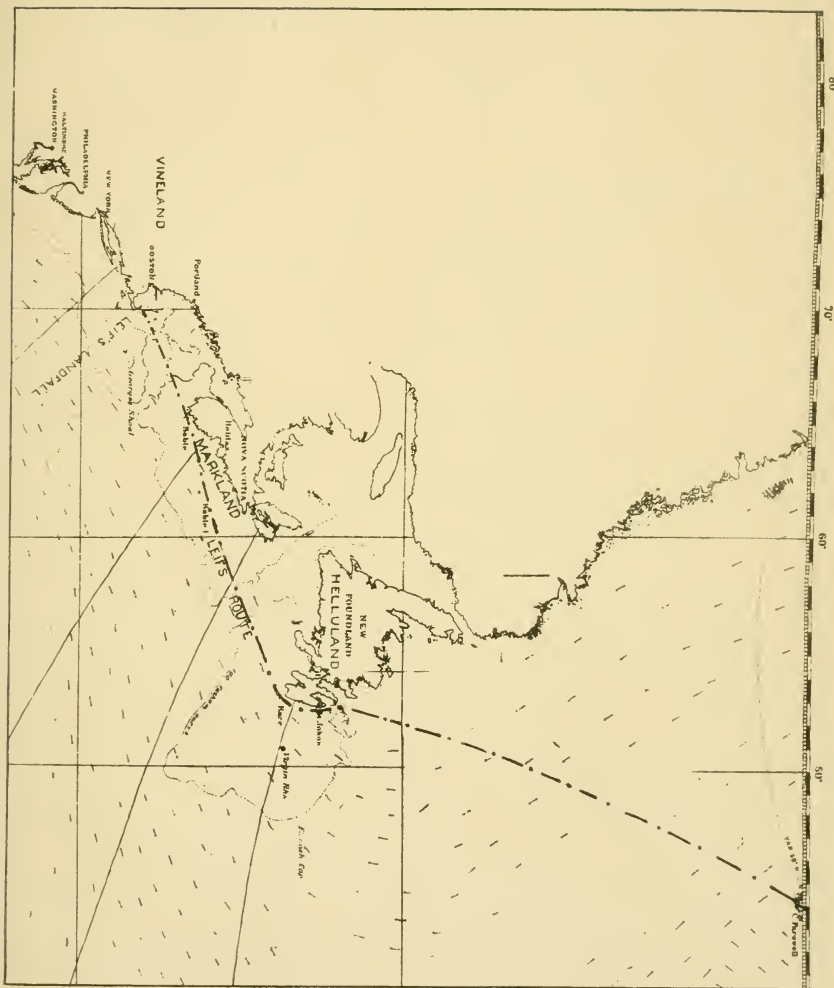
Sagas.

The sagas tell us, that in the year 985, Biarni Heriulfsson, a merchant and ship-master of Norway, in sailing from Iceland to Greenland, encountered a northeast storm, and, after many days, when the sky grew clear, he found himself off a coast wooded and low, with little hills in the interior. He did not land, as he had heard that Greenland was a region of ice and mountains, but reversed his course and sailed to the northeast.

Biarni's  
voyage.

He sailed for two days with a fair wind, and at the end of that time he sighted another projection, also wooded and low, without mountains. He continued on his course with fair weather and the same southwest wind, until, at the end of three days, he came to land which was high and had snow-covered mountains.

He coasted along its shores proving it to be an island, and after another sail of four days, the continued southwest wind becoming stronger



Lief's route from Greenland.





he reached Heriulfsness, his father's residence, at the southern extremity of Greenland.

The three points of land he had descried before reaching Greenland were *Cape Cod*, *Nova Scotia* and *Newfoundland*.

Leif Ericsson dwelt in Greenland with his father Eric the Red, and having heard Biarni's story, fifteen years after the voyage, in the year 1000, he purchased the ship, manned and equipped it and set sail. His crew was thirty-five men.

Leif Ericsson  
sails in the  
year A.D 1000.

He first touched the land that Biarni had last seen and in coasting had discovered to be an island. He noted the snowy mountains in the interior, and from the flat rocks along the shore he named it Helluland, now Newfoundland.

He returned to his ship, and after a sail of three days, which was the same time that Biarni had consumed in sailing the reverse direction, he reached the low wooded shores of Nova Scotia with their white sand beaches. He called the country Markland (woodland), and again embarked.

At the end of two days, having continued to sail with a northeast wind (Biarni had sailed the distance contrarily with a southwest wind in the same length of time) he came to an island

The land-fall  
of Leif Ericsson.

at the northern point of Cape Cod, now connected by the drifting of the sands with that promontory, and with his ship's company went on shore.

This was the land-fall of Leif Ericsson.

Leif sails into  
Boston Bay.

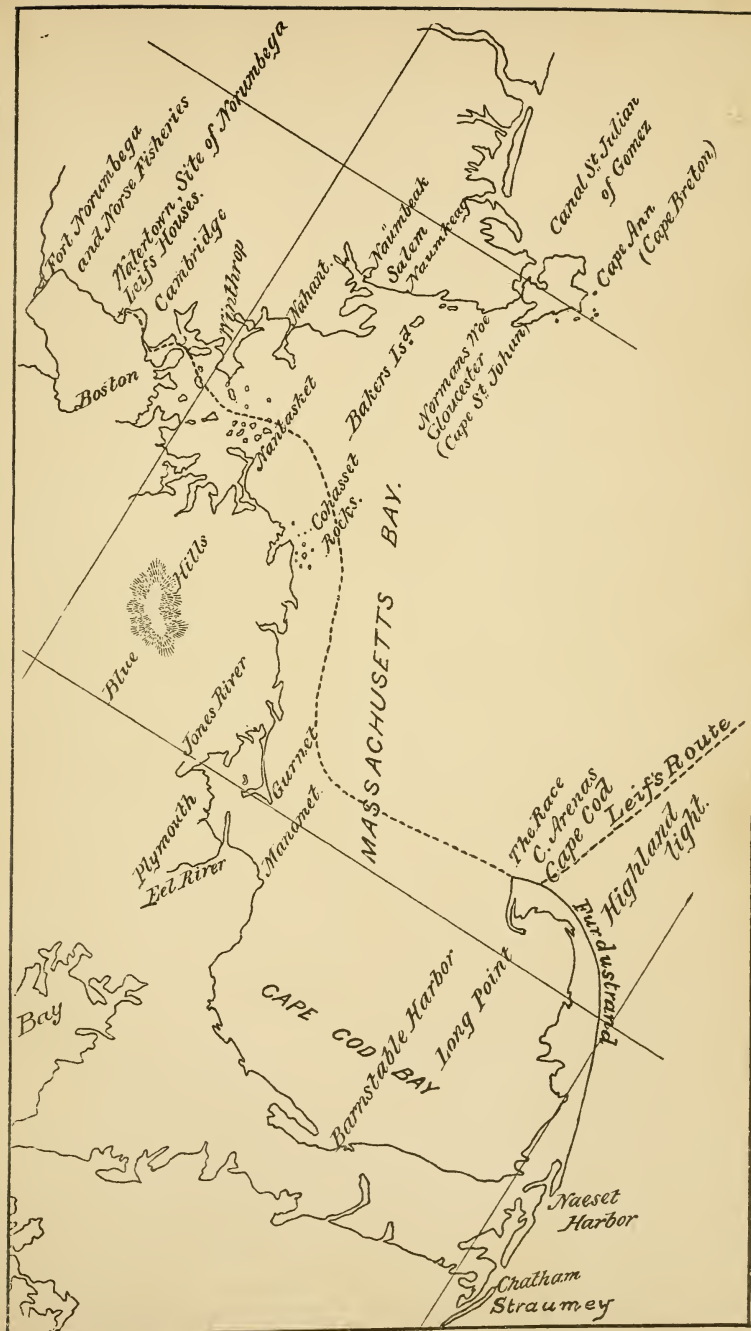
After a short stay they returned to their ship and sailed across a bay that opened out to the north. That is, they sailed across the mouth of Cape Cod Bay, up past the Gurnet and Cohasset Rocks into Boston Bay, where they ran aground at ebb tide.

At flood tide the ship floated up the Charles River into the ancient Back Bay, which Leif spoke of as "a lake through which a river flowed into the sea." Later it was called by Thorfinn, *Hóp*, a land-locked bay, salt at flood tide and fresh at ebb.

Leif lands in  
Cambridge.

The only practicable landing place was at a point in Cambridge once known as Gerry's Landing, near the bluff called Symond's Hill.

This bluff was originally thirty-five feet above high water, and was only taken away some forty years ago to fill in portions of the Back Bay. Here is the only point where the shore was bold and hard and where a ship could rest on an even keel, making it possible to land at high or low tide.



Lief's Route from Cape Cod.



There is the faintest suggestion of a landing now on the grass-covered river bank, and the place was called Gerry's Landing because all the land about was owned by Elbridge Gerry, who lived at Elmwood, the estate which afterwards came into possession of the Lowell family, and made famous as the home of James Russell Lowell. Here he was born, and here, where he passed nearly all his life, he died. In "Sweet Auburn," almost within sight of Elmwood windows, he sleeps.

Elbridge Gerry lived at Elmwood. Afterwards the home of James Russell Lowell.

The house, surrounded by extensive grounds with beautiful English elms of ancient growth, is located at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Mt. Auburn Street, and but a short distance from Brattle Street.

Situation of Elmwood.

At Gerry's Landing, goods were unloaded from boats and skows and transported into the country for the use of the early settlers and for traffic with the Indians.

Former use of Gerry's Landing.

Here, too, in that far earlier period, Lief and his company, so the sagas tell us, "brought up from the ship their skin cots and made booths. After this they took counsel together, resolved to remain for the winter, and built there a large house."

Leif builds his house.

Booths were temporary abodes of a less substantial nature than the later dwellings.

Booths.

Skin cots.

Skin cots were sort of bags or envelopes in which a man could incase himself. They were made of coarse, heavy fur on the outside with a lining of a softer, finer kind. Fastened down the sides and across the bottom, a man could slip into one, and, drawing over the flap at the top, lie down anywhere in the coldest or most exposed place.

The narrative goes on to say that half the company attended to the work of building, while the other half explored the country, Leif alternately assisting each set of men.

After contemplating then Leif's route from Greenland to his land-fall on Cape Cod, and his sail into Boston Harbor and up the Charles River, the next point of interest is the site of his house.

Happily the remains have been discovered for us and we have only to go down Elmwood Avenue from Brattle Street, past "Elmwood," the Lowell estate, and across Mt. Auburn Street, continuing to the right of the stonecutter's, down the road or lane, until a pair of bars are reached.

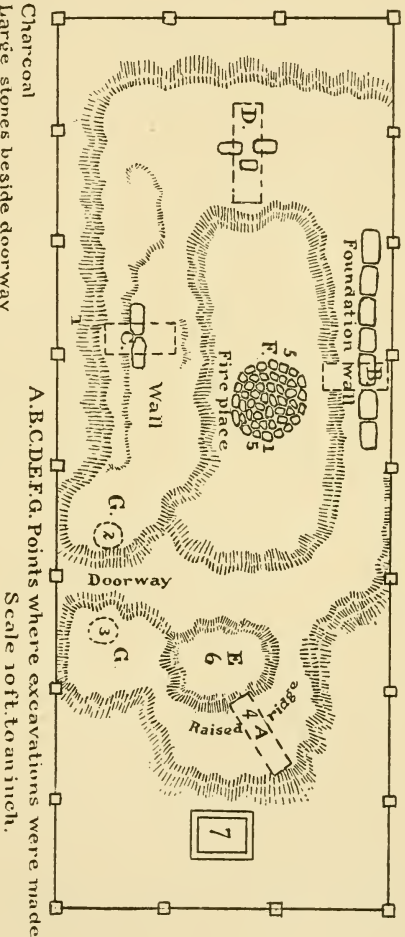
A short walk beyond, with the Cambridge Hospital buildings on our left and we find ourselves upon the historic spot. Through Professor



# Sketch of Site of Leif's House at Gerry's Landing.

Ruġ. 3, 1892.

*Geo. Davis C.E.*



- 1 Chaircoal
- 2-3 Large stones beside doorway
- 4- 3½ ft. to undisturbed earth
- 5-5 Hearth, paved ¼ ft. across 1 ft. below surface
- 6- Arrow heads found 3 ft. down
- 7- Tablet. On this spot in the year 1000 Leif Ericson built his house in Vineland



Horsford's interest and liberality, it has been enclosed with an iron fence carefully set on granite posts, a massive tablet of polished granite denoting that "On this spot, in the year 1000, Leif Ericsson built his house in Vineland."

On this spot  
in the year  
1000, Leif  
Ericsson built  
his house in  
Vineland.

It is the custom for Norse houses to be built long and narrow with a long side towards the south. Leif's principal house faced in this way.

The plan will show how carefully excavations have been made under the directions of Professor Horsford, and with what wonderful vividness they reveal the past.

The most distinctively characteristic feature of Norse dwellings is the fire in the middle of the house. The earthen floor has been found with the stone hearth in the centre.

Careful excavations reveal the earthen floor with stone hearth in centre.

The stones are mostly split, showing that they have been heated, and cracked by the unequal expansion. On the under part of the stones there are traces of the green protoxide of iron. On the top, where they have been exposed to heat and air, this has become red (rust), the peroxide of iron. Charred wood or charcoal has been found by the hearth. On the side of the foundations towards the south two large stones were uncovered, the width of a doorway apart.

Stockade and  
arrow points.

At the end of the house towards the river, where the stockade would naturally be built, stone arrow points and spear heads were found in almost perfect condition.

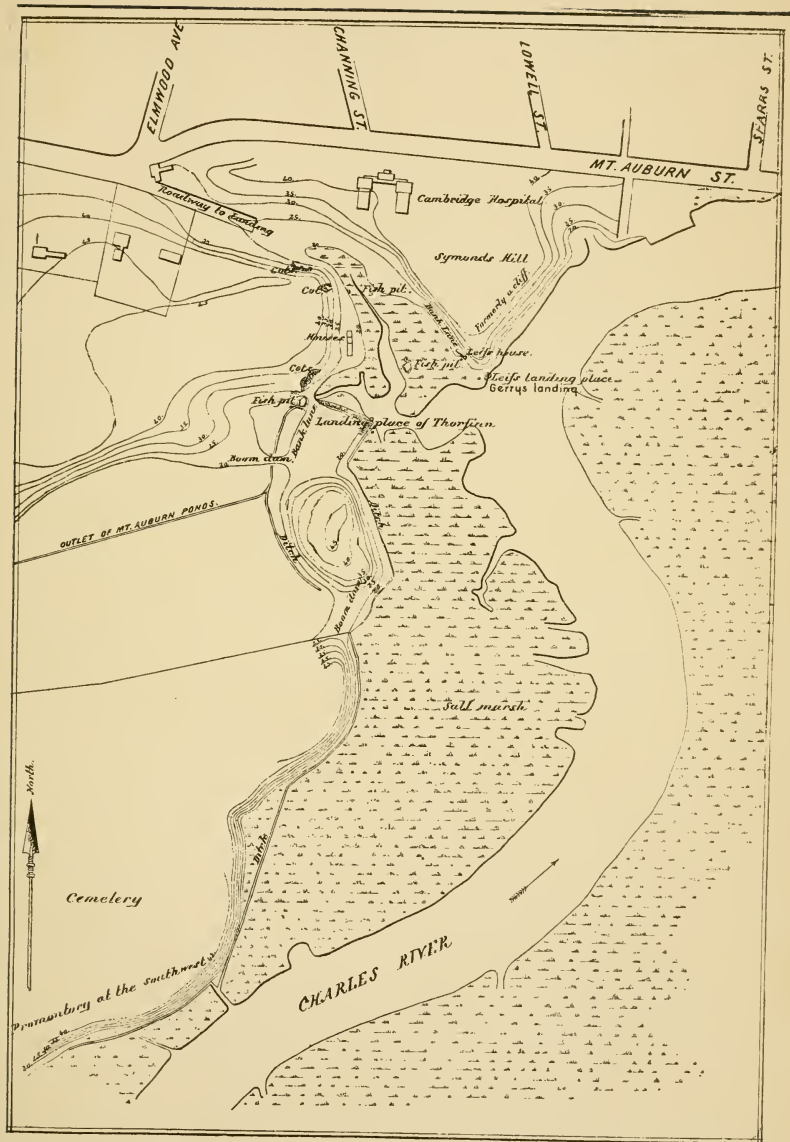
What can bring us closer to a time and people than to come to the hearth-stone around which they gathered, to the fireside where stories of home must have been told over and over again, and where plans for life in the new country were discussed and brought to an issue.

The story of  
the naming of  
Vineland.

The story of the naming of Vineland has often been told. Let me repeat it:

In Leif's company was a man named Tyrker, a German, who had been for a long time in the household of Leif's father, Eric the Red. One evening he was missing, and his absence caused Leif much uneasiness. Leif had cautioned his men not to wander far away, and his anxiety increasing, he started out with twelve of his companions to seek Tyrker. They had gone but a short distance when they met him in an exceedingly merry mood. He held in his hand a bunch of grapes and rolled his eyes, talking excitedly in German. He was small and ugly and had a little wizened face, so that his fantastic actions were all the more grotesque.

As he approached Leif he addressed him in



Plan of Site of Northman's Landing



the Norse tongue, exclaiming: "I strayed not far away, but I have something strange to relate. I have found vines and grapes such as grow in Germany where I was born."

Thereupon he danced in great glee, and it was not strange, for the discovery had brought back the associations of his childhood.

From this incident Leif named the country Vineland — a place where vines grew wild, bearing grapes.

In the spring they sailed away to Greenland, carrying with them a rich cargo of grapes and māsur wood.

Leif returns  
to Greenland.

The next expedition made to Vineland was in the summer of 1002, when Thorvald Ericsson, a brother to Leif, made a voyage in the ship that Leif loaned to him. No particulars of this expedition are given until Leif's houses are reached.

Thorvald  
Ericsson sails  
to Vineland.

Thorvald, with his company of thirty men, remained quiet through the winter, and in the spring of 1003 explored the Charles, finding shallows and islands, with a corn-shed on an island far to the west. In the autumn he returned again to Leif's houses, and the following spring, in 1004, while exploring the sea, he was driven upon Cape Cod, where he broke the keel of his ship.

Thorvald  
makes explor-  
ations.

Breaks off the  
keel of his  
ship.



He remained there for some time, repairing his vessel, and erecting the old keel in the sand called the point Kialarness (Cape of the Keel). He then sailed away to the eastward, into the bays along by Plymouth, until he at length came to a point of land which was beautifully wooded.

Thorvald  
lands upon the  
Gurnet.

He moored his vessel and went with his men upon the shore. "Here it is beautiful," Thorvald exclaimed, "and here would I willingly set up my abode."

The Skrael-  
lings.

Soon after their arrival they were attacked by the Skraellings, the inhabitants which the Northmen found here. They were in appearance short, with wide faces and high cheek-bones; their eyes very large and set wide apart.

Thorvald's en-  
counter with  
the Skrael-  
lings.

Thorvald and his companions were walking down to the shore toward their ship, when they descried three hillocks on the sand in the distance. Upon approaching them, they discovered them to be skin boats with three Skraelings under each boat. They divided their forces and killed eight of them, one escaping with his boat.

Then Thorvald and his men were overcome by fatigue and fell asleep. Suddenly they were awakened by a loud cry and these words:

“Awake, Thorvald, and all thy companions, if thou wilt save thy life; go on board thy ship with all thy men, and depart from this country at once.”

This cry is surmised by Professor Horsford to come from one of Leif's party who remained in Vineland. They all hastened to the ship and raised their war screens, planks that could be arranged around the deck on the gunwale, as a protection from arrows and stones.

A great number of the Skraellings in their boats bore down upon them, and in the encounter Thorvald was mortally wounded. He was buried on the Gurnet, at the point he had considered so beautiful, and he requested that a cross be put at his head and one at his feet, and the place be called Krossaness (Cape of Crosses). <sup>Thorvald mortally wounded.</sup>

This ness or projection is known on maps as late as 1543 as Cape St. Croix.

Thorvald's wishes were carried out and after the winter had passed, his men returned to Greenland, taking with them a cargo of grapes and māsur wood, and bearing the sad news of his brother's death to Leif.

Thorfinn  
Karlsefni.

The most interesting and important voyage to Vineland was made by Thorfinn Karlsefni, a man from Norway, rich and distinguished, and descended from an ancient and noble family.

Thorfinn sails  
to Greenland.

Karlsefni went from Norway to Iceland, and from there made a voyage to Greenland. He had in his ship a crew of forty men, and another ship accompanied him with as many more.

This was in the autumn of 1006, and when they arrived at Ericsfiord, Leif invited the principal men of both ships to spend the winter with him at Brattahlid.

The celebra-  
tion of the  
Yule feast.

As the time for the Yule feast approached, Leif became silent and oppressed. Karlsefni noted it and questioned him. Leif confessed that he could make but a poor festival that year, whereat the goods from both ships were freely offered him, and a bounteous feast provided.

Gudrid.

In the household of Leif there dwelt the beautiful Gudrid, daughter of Thorbiorn, with whom she had come from Iceland to Greenland. Her father had undertaken the voyage for the purpose of taking her away from suitors whom he deemed unworthy of her hand. One of them had been scornfully described by him as "nothing but a gatherer of taxes." Since Gudrid's

arrival in Greenland she had married Leif's brother Thorstein, and become a widow.

Soon after the festivities of the Yule feast were over, Thorfinn Karlsefni sought Gudrid in marriage, and winning her consent and that of Leif, the ceremonies of their betrothal and marriage were both celebrated that winter.

Conversation often reverted to Vineland and the richness of the country. Urged by Gudrid, Thorfinn decided to undertake the voyage, and in the spring of 1007, accompanied by her, he set sail.

He was joined by two or more ships, one of which was loaned for the occasion by Thorbiorn, Gudrid's father. Thorfinn used the vessel that had brought him from Iceland. There were one hundred and sixty people in all, seven of whom were women, and they were supplied with cattle and everything necessary to settle a new country.

They reached Vineland in May or early June, occupied Leif's houses and built additional ones "some nearer, others farther from the water."

After remaining here two months or more, two of the ships bearing a part of the company with Thorfinn for one commander, sailed away on an exploring expedition past Cohasset and

Thorfinn weds  
Gudrid.

Thorfinn and  
Gudrid with a  
large company  
sail for Vine-  
land.

They sail upon  
exploring ex-  
peditions.

Wonder-  
strand.

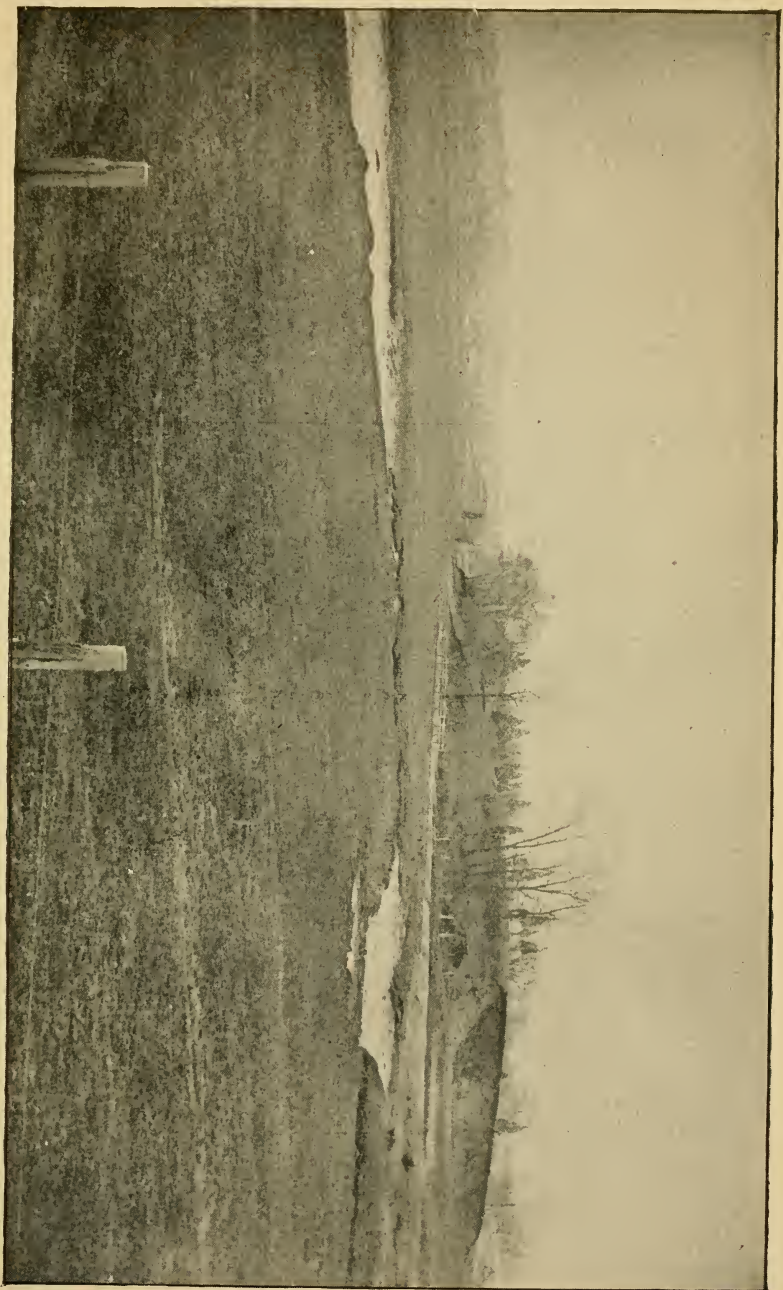
Scituate Beach to Cape Cod, where the broken keel was found, and the point was called Kialar-ness, the name which Thorvald had already given it. They pursued their way around the outer side of the cape, passing long stretches of sand to which they gave the descriptive name of Furdustrand (Wonderstrand) because they were so long in sailing by, and for the reason that the shore being curved convexly was constantly retreating before them. Then they ran into a cove and anchored.

Slaves find  
corn and  
grapes grow-  
ing wild at  
Nauset.

Leif had loaned Thorfinn two Scots, a man named Haki and a woman named Hekia, slaves which had been given him by King Olaf, of Norway. They were swifter of foot than wild animals, and they were put upon the land and commanded to run three days and report what they might see. They wore a kind of garment called kiafal. It had a hat on top, was open at the sides without sleeves, and fastened between the legs with a button and strap. When they returned, one bore in his hand a bunch of grapes, the other brought a white ear of corn. They had found these growing wild, both unripe, as it was still early in the season.

Thorfinn goes  
as far south as  
Chatham.

Thorfinn continued his journey as far as Chatham, and then the other ship, having sailed



Landing place of Thorfinn on southwest bank after returning from the T. I. I.





to the northward and encountered a storm, Thorfinn retraced his course to seek it. But it was blown out to sea with its commander Thorhall and a crew of nine men, and Thorfinn returned to his houses, landing upon the southwestern bank of the little tributary stream that flows down from Mt. Auburn, emptying into the Charles.

Thorfinn returns to his houses in Vineland.

Here a cove was made where a vessel could lie safely through the winter.

Then Thorfinn directed wood to be cut and hewn into blocks and piled upon the cliff to dry. But before pursuing the thread of this industry let us find evidences of his sojourn in Vineland where he occupied Leif's house and built additional ones of his own.

If we walk back from the site of Leif's house along the faintly discernible road, which was the ancient highway from Gerry's Landing, until we get to the bars again, turning to the left, we find ourselves upon what is known as Bank Lane, a narrow road skirting the meadows and used in the early days of Cambridge by the owners of riparian rights in the grass of the marshes for the removal of their hay.

From Leif's house to Thorfinn's.

On the left of this grassy lane, if one stands facing the Cambridge Cemetery, can be seen, if

Thorfinn's  
long house.

one looks carefully, a ridge of earth, grass grown and uneven, where it is conceived that Thorfinn's long house, his most pretentious one, stood.

There has been digging done here very recently, which will serve to verify the location.

It is the custom now, in Norway and Iceland, as well as nine hundred years ago, that when a company of explorers settle in a new country, a large or principal house is built with smaller huts near at hand.

Thorfinn's  
huts or  
booths.

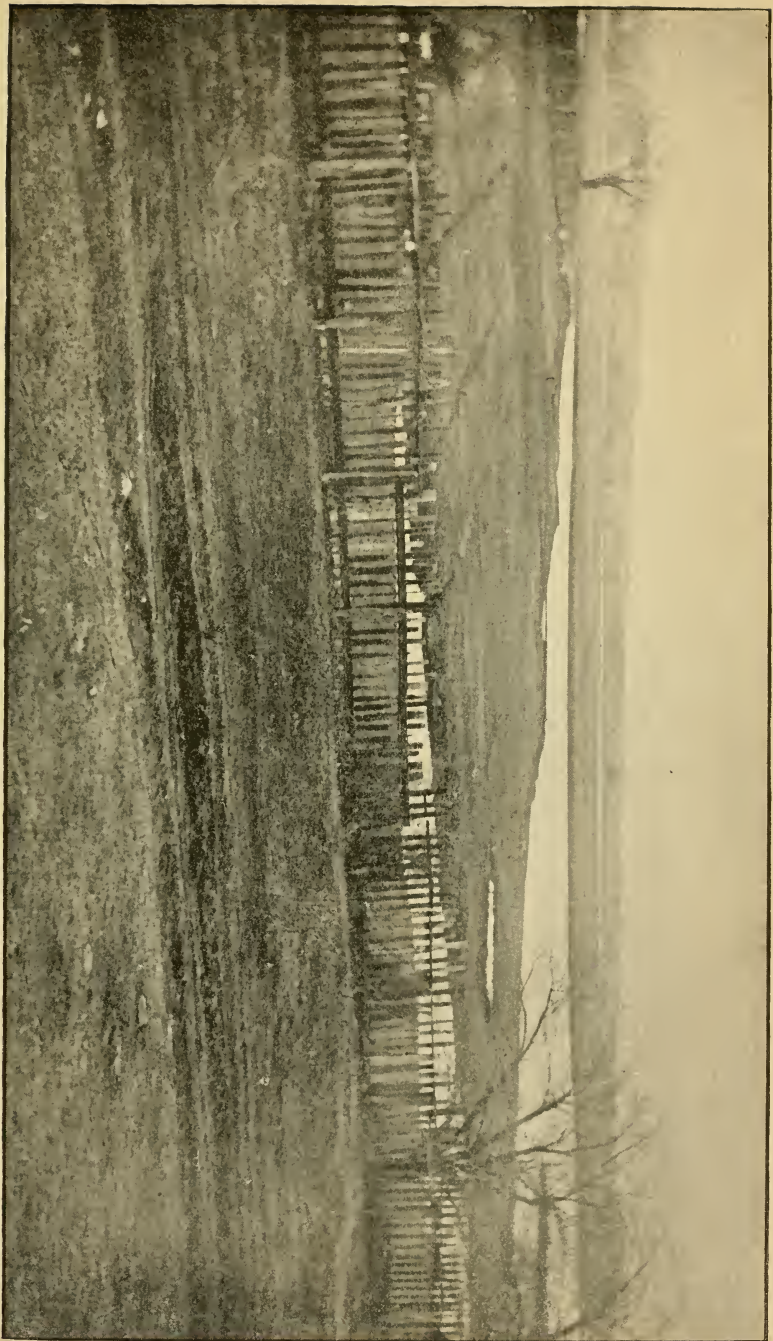
On the opposite side of Bank Lane, near to the site of Thorfinn's house, may be seen the sites of several of these huts, some showing a sort of terrace thrown out in front of them.

Burial place  
or foundation  
of tower.

Towards Elmwood, opposite the tenement houses, and just behind an elm tree, is a circular mound which may have been a burial place or the foundation of a tower.

Fish-pits and  
salmon fish-  
ing.

Returning to the site of Thorfinn's long house, there will be observed beyond, to the right, a large fish-pit, and to the left, towards Leif's house, several smaller ones. The sagas tell us that Thorvald Ericsson remained quite all winter at Leif's house and lived by fishing. Thorvald mentioned the great size and abundance of salmon, and Professor Horsford has in his pos-



Traces of conceived site of long house of Thorfinn.



session a salmon sinker picked up on the banks of the Charles and four more have been found near the memorial terrace in front of Longfellow's house.

In the saga of Thorfinn it is related that pits were dug at extreme high tide where the land was highest, to catch the fish in spawning season, the fish going up the rivers and smaller streams to deposit their spawn.

They were also dug where the land began, and when the tide went out there were "sacred fish" or halibut in the pits.

In the autumn of 1007, little Snorre, the son of Gudrid and Thorfinn, was born.

Snorre, son of  
Gudrid and  
Thorfinn, born  
in Vineland.

As Thorfinn had been made aware of the Skraellings, to protect his household from any attack, especially during his absence on his expedition to Cape Kialarness and down past Wonderstrand, he had a strong stockade built about his dwelling.

It is written that Gudrid once sat within the door of her dwelling by the cradle of her sleeping babe.

Gudrid is always described as very beautiful, large and fair, with luxuriant golden hair, and as good as she was beautiful.

As she sat near her babe, sweetly singing a

Gudrid is  
visited by  
another  
Gudrid.

lullaby, or with thoughts wandering to northern lands mayhap, the doorway was darkened suddenly, and a female figure had glided in beyond the palisade of upright logs. Startled, Gudrid glanced up and beheld a woman, rather short of stature, wearing a black woven kirtle or gown, her yellow hair bound by a snood. Her eyes were large, so large that never had such eyes been seen in human face before.

“What art thou called?” the stranger asked in the Icelandic tongue.

The mother replied, “Gudrid. What art thou called?” questioning, and holding out her hand in welcome.

“Gudrid,” the strange one replied and vanished, for at the same time there was a loud crash outside, and a Skraelling, in attempting to seize a weapon, was killed by one of the house guards.

What wonder that Gudrid marvelled at the strange apparition she alone had seen!

Who was this barbaric creature born of an alien race yet speaking her own tongue and possessing strong Norse characteristics. Even bearing her own name.

Daughters of Northmen were already in the land!

About the fields of Cambridge little Snorre









played, running off, no doubt, to pluck the yellow daisies on the promontory to the south-west of his father's settlement, where the ox-eyed daisies grow even to this day. Cape St. Margharita this point was called by Verrazano in 1524.

Where Snorre played.

A small, pure white stone cup, gracefully proportioned and well preserved, has been unearthed near the grounds, and is now among the possessions of Professor Horsford.

Small white stone cup found.

Might it not have belonged to the fair Gudrid and it is not impossible that little Snorre lost it.

From this Vineland-born boy have descended many distinguished men and bishops in Iceland. No genealogies were better kept than those of the prominent Icelandic families, and as the Rev. Benjamin De Costa says: "There can be no reasonable doubt cast upon the record which attests the family line of Gudrid, the foundation of which was begun in New England, furnishing an important part of the Episcopal succession in Iceland."

Icelandic genealogies.

A descendent of Snorre's in the ninth generation was Her Hauk, the Lagman or Governor of Iceland in 1295. He was one of the compilers of the Landnama-bok, similar, but of greater value even, than the English Domesday Book.

Thorvaldsen,  
the great  
Danish sculptor,  
descended  
from Vine-  
land born  
Snorre.

It is also recorded that from Snorre is descended Thorvaldsen, the great Danish sculptor.

It was not until after the first winter of Thorfinn's sojourn in Vineland that he was visited by the Skraellings, and then these swarthy little

Settlement of  
Thorfinn  
visited by the  
Skraellings.

men, pointing to the sun as a sign of peace, came to gaze and wonder and then sail away around the promontory to the southwest.

After a time the Skraellings came again, appearing from around the southwestern promontory in large numbers. Thorfinn raised his white shield of peace and when they met they began to trade.

They trade  
with furs.

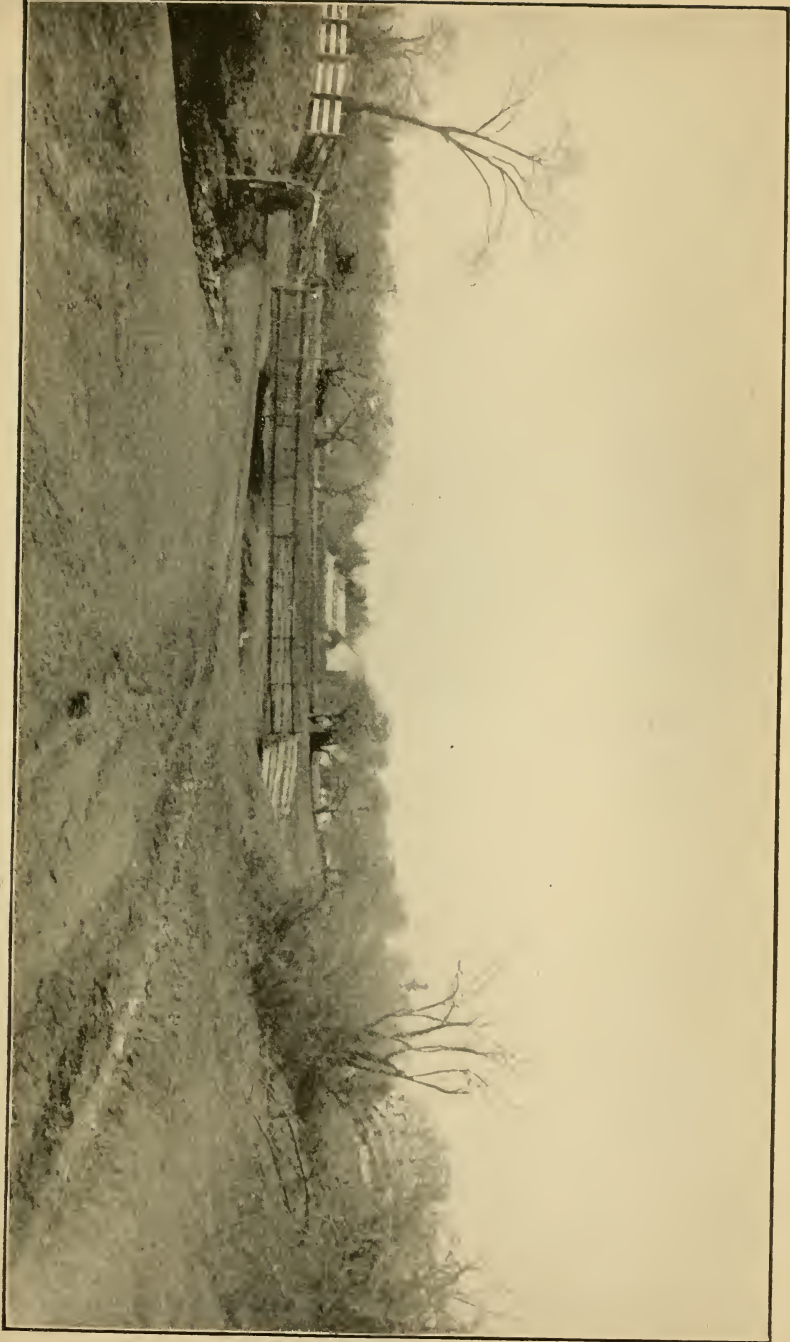
The Skraellings brought rich furs and skins which they bartered for red cloth. They would take long strips of it and bind it around their heads as a snood.

When it grew scarce, it was cut into small pieces, but the Skraellings would give as much for it as before. They also received products of the dairy which they greatly relished.

In the midst of these transactions the bull of Thorfinn's herd ran out from the woods, and, frightened, loudly roared.

With howls of terror the Skraellings rushed to their boats and tumbling into them, rowed away.

Fish-pit on the stream from Mt. Auburn.





Thorfinn was apprehensive that the Skrael-  
 lings would come in hostility the next time,  
 and hardly more than three weeks later they  
 appeared in vast numbers, their paddles turned  
 from the sun, and uttering prolonged howls of  
 rage.

The Skrael-  
 lings become  
 hostile.

They assailed the newcomers with a hot  
 shower of missiles sent from slings, and fasten-  
 ing a large stone in the skin of an animal they  
 attached it to a long pole and hurled it among  
 the Northmen. The Northmen were much  
 alarmed and fled along the river, but near some  
 rocks they made a bold stand and fought val-  
 iently, so that a large number of the mob was  
 killed and but few of their own men perished.

A battle  
 ensues.

The Skraelings found a dead man with an  
 axe laying beside him. One of their number  
 picked up the axe and struck at a tree with it.  
 One after another they tested it and thought it  
 a treasure, and that it cut well. Then one of  
 them struck at a stone and the axe broke,  
 whereat they concluded it was useless, because  
 it would not cut stone and threw it away.

Although Vineland was fruitful and at-  
 tractive, Thorfinn began to feel that he would  
 be liable constantly to attacks from the natives,  
 and for this reason reluctantly abandoned the

Thorfinn  
 leaves Vine-  
 land.

idea of remaining in the country. The following spring, in 1011, he sailed for Greenland, loading his ship with mäsür wood, rich furs and skins, grapes dried, and doubtless corn which the Northmen found growing wild in the lowlands.

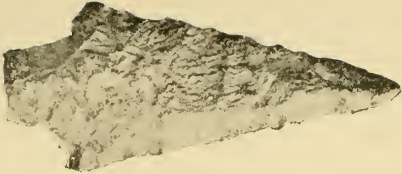
Other voyages  
to Vineland.

Subsequent voyages were made to Vineland.

Soon after Thorfinn's return to Greenland, it is related that Freydis, a natural daughter of Eric the Red, and who, it is said, had accompanied Thorfinn on his expedition, prevailed upon Helge and Finnboge, two brothers of Icelandic descent, to join her in an expedition. They had come from Norway to Greenland in their ship, and passed a winter there. The voyage promised great gain, and there was to be an equal division between Freydis and the brothers.

Freydis and  
two brothers  
Helge and  
Finnboge, sail  
with two ships  
to Vineland.

They came directly to Leif's houses, each ship with thirty men, besides the women. Contentions soon arose, and Freydis had her husband with his men put the brothers to death and all their followers, while she slew the five women of their party. She bestowed many gifts upon her own followers for them to conceal her cruelty, and returned with both ships richly laden to Greenland. After a time her wicked-



Arrow-point.



Salmon Sinker.



White Stone Cup.





ness was revealed, and “nobody thought anything of them, save evil, from that time.”

About the year 1070 the King of Denmark told the Prelate, Adam of Bremen, about Vineland, visited half a century after Thorfinn was here. “It was called Vineland,” he said, “because grapes making excellent wine grow there spontaneously, and cereals without planting.”

About 1070 the King of Denmark tells of Vineland visited by his subjects.

This testimony is independent of the Icelandic literature, and the king assured the Dignitaries of the Church that it was trustworthy, as his subjects, the Danes, had been in Vineland.

In 1121, Bishop Eric Gnupson, of Greenland, resigned that See to undertake a mission in Vineland.

1121 Bishop Gnupson undertakes a mission in Vineland.

There are records of voyages in 1285 and 1288, and in 1357 a ship went to Iceland from Greenland that had been to Markland (Nova Scotia) for wood. This was the māsur wood that formed so large a part of Thorfinn's cargo when he left Vineland.

What was māsur wood?

We are told that Leif took it away from Vineland. Thorvald's men, too, after his death, returned to Greenland with their ship richly laden with grapes and māsur wood. Thorfinn

doubtless took away the richest cargo of all, and an important part of it was māsur wood.

Māsur wood.

We can find it to-day. It is the burr or warty outgrowth on oaks, maples, hickory, ash and other trees. It has a beautiful curly grain, and is so tough that it can be worked into extremely thin forms without danger of warping or cracking. It is capable of receiving a high polish and is very decorative.

The collecting of māsur wood from these primal forests was an important industry of the Northmen, and we find constant evidences of it in the dams, ditches and canals, which in great numbers have been brought to our notice by Professor Horsford.

Thorfinn's directions to his men to fell the wood, hew it, carry it to the ship and pile it on the cliff near by to dry, is more descriptive than we at first realize. The tree was first felled and then the valuable wood cut off or hewn into blocks of convenient size to handle.

As there were no means for transportation other than water, the blocks had to be floated down the streams to the ships at Gerry's Landing. But the wood was wet and must needs be piled upon the cliff to dry.

The cliff we do not find, but we have ac-



Burrs on oak tree.



counted for its removal for the purpose of filling-in new lands.

You will observe a ridge of earth across Bank Lane, obliquely crossing the little stream that flows down from Mt. Auburn and stretching off to the right. This served to confine the waters that brought down the wood. To illustrate how highly prized was the *māsur* wood of Vineland, a story of Thorfinn is worthy of repetition.

In the spring of 1011 he sailed away from Vineland, and soon after reaching Greenland he again embarked and carried his rich stores to Norway, where he disposed of them to advantage. He passed the winter in the court of the king with Gudrid and his son Snorre, being highly esteemed, and in the spring of 1012 made ready to go to Iceland, their future and permanent home.

While he was waiting for a favoring wind, a Bremen merchant came to him and wished to buy his *husa-snotra*. A story of the value of *māsur* wood.

While he was waiting for a favoring wind, a Bremen merchant came to him and wished to buy his *husa-snotra*. Thorfinn sells his *husa-snotra*.

There have been many speculations as to the meaning of this word, but the research of Professor Horsford determined it to signify a pair of house-scales. Thorfinn at first refused to sell, but when the merchant offered a pound of gold, eighty dollars of our money, and far more

in present values, he closed the bargain. The scale-pans were made of māsur wood.

Other specimens of māsur wood.

History tells us of its worth. It was used in the manufacture of communion-cups, chalices for church services, and is mentioned in inventories of ancient cathedrals. It was also employed for making drinking-cups, flagons, beakers, tankards, often mounted in silver, and kept by kings with the royal treasure.

“A mighty mazer bowl of wine was set,”

says Spenser; and one quotes from Ben Jonson:

“Their brimful mazers to the feasting bring.”

Professor Horsford has pictures of elaborately carved tankards dating back to the eleventh century, and also possesses several handsome drinking-cups, which are duplicates of more recent date.

We shall find growing evidences of the importance of the māsur-wood industry as we proceed on our way towards Norumbega, the ancient city of history, tradition and song; indeed, we do not at any time wander away from them.

But let us visit the amphitheatre which is not far distant.

The amphitheatre.

A short ride of less than a mile in the horse-cars, up Brattle Street to Mt. Auburn station,





Drinking Cup.





or by carriage up Mt. Auburn Street to Brattle Street and Belmont Street, thence to Cushing Street; and, turning down the first street to the left, the splendid amphitheatre lies before us.

Here, too, we meet with the care and surveillance of Professor Horsford, for he has purchased the property, and enclosed it with square-cut granite posts linked together by a heavy chain.

This is conceived to have been a gathering place of the Northmen.

Here, perchance, came the Althing or General Assembly, to maintain a republican form of government such as was held at home.

Althing or  
General As-  
sembly.

The Althing, in Iceland, made the laws, and the strictest justice prevailed. A man was appointed to remember and recite these laws, and "the edicts of the Althing, the decisions of the courts, the chronicles of kings and people, the genealogies and histories of families, the titles to estates, as held by the Sagamen, were trusted implicitly."

Or, peradventure, the Norsemen on our shores came to this spot for their pastimes, as in their country great stress was laid upon bodily strength and prowess. They might have had wrestling, jumping, or exercise in the use of

Pastimes.

arms — swords, spears, battle-axes. It would be very natural for men of wealth and distinction, as they were who came to Vineland, to participate in the sports to which they were accustomed.

Horse fighting was also much indulged in; and this amphitheatre with no less than eight terraces for the spectators, may have been formed for any of these purposes.

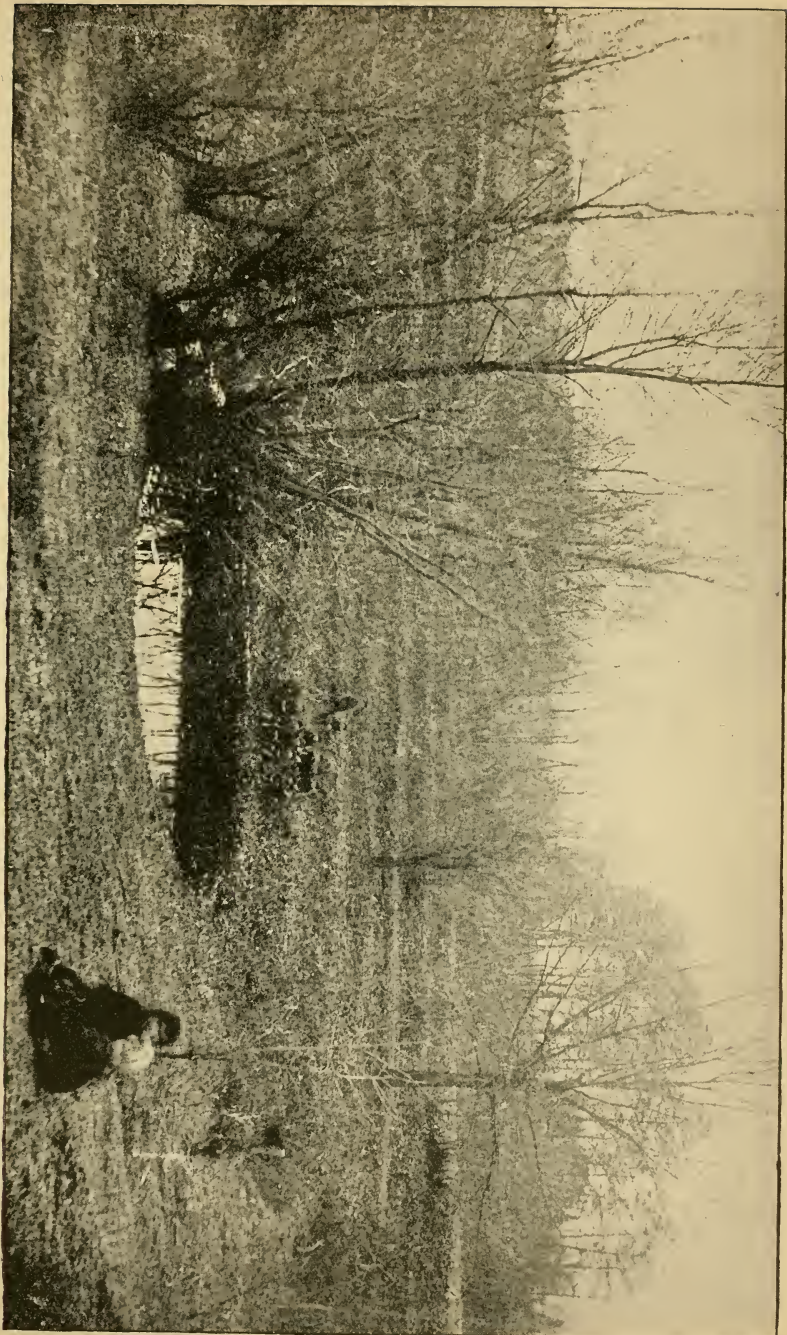
To Watertown, the ancient city of Norumbega.

If horses be waiting, let us on to Watertown, to the ancient city of Norumbega; or, if we have wandered more slowly from one point to another, a few steps back to Mt. Auburn station will take us to the horse-cars, whose tracks border the beautiful road with a charming view of hill and country on either side, that with sweeps and curves enters the little town.

From the bridge which spans the Charles, once known as the Norumbega River, a fine view may be obtained of the dam, docks and wharves of the olden city.

Tablet on the bridge.

A handsome tablet on the bridge will assure us that we have not mistaken our way, for Professor Horsford's care still forestalls us. The tablet is thus inscribed: "Outlook upon the stone dam and stone-walled docks and wharves of Norumbega, the seaport of the Northmen in Vineland."



Amph'theatre.



On the opposite side of the bridge, the town has erected a similar tablet, which reads: "The old bridge by the mill' crossed Charles River near this spot as early as 1641." Tablet erected by the town of Watertown.

The story of Norumbega is not a long one, though very old — for Massachusetts. The story of Norumbega.

Verrazano, an Italian explorer under Francis I, of France, in 1524 sailed into the mouth of a river named Norumbega.

In 1543, Allefonsce, a pilot under Roberval, found in the forty-third degree, between Cape Ann and Cape Cod, a river with a city on its banks, both bearing the name of Norumbegue. At the mouth of this river were rocks and islands, and about fifteen leagues up from the mouth was the city.

"There was a fine people at this city; and they had furs of many animals, and wore mantles of martin skins."

Thevet saw Norumbega in 1556, and described it as situated on the banks of "one of the most beautiful rivers in all the world." Wytfliet in 1597, Douay in 1607, and Lescarbot in 1610, all quote the statement that "to the north of Virginia is Norumbega, which is well known as a beautiful city and a great river."

But there is a still more wonderful story :

In 1569, David Ingram, an English sailor, reached a beautiful city called Norumbega, after having wandered across the country from the Gulf of Mexico. He had sailed from England under Sir John Hawkins, and been set on shore at Tampico with a hundred or more others, owing to lack of provisions. He visited many large Indian towns in his journey over the country before reaching Norumbega, and soon after his arrival he sailed for England from the harbor of St. Mary's (once a name for Boston Bay), not far from the Norumbega he had visited. Upon his return, he was kindly received by Sir John Hawkins. He told stories that passed belief. He had looked upon houses with pillars of crystal and silver, and had seen pearls measured by the peck. He was taken into council by Dr. John Dee, concerning a contemplated expedition to Norumbega by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and Thevet, who was present, confirmed his relations in part.

Much of what he told he had only heard, and his wanderings, deprivations and hardships had brought confusion to his memory. But he had seen the city, and the pearls — from fresh water clams — and there were furs and precious stones.



Sir Humphrey Gilbert sailed with the hope of finding Norumbega; Champlain sought it vainly, and Captain John Smith hoped to reach it. A mythical city could hardly have gained credence with men of so many nationalities.

And whence the name Norumbega? From Norway. It means: Belonging to Norway, once called Norvega or Norbega. The native Indians could not pronounce *b* without putting *m* before it, so that Norbega became Nor'mbega or Norumbega. Norumbega means: belonging to Norway.

The country to which the Northmen came they first called Vineland. But many years after when they had become merged more or less in the Indian people, and other explorers came, the answer to inquiries concerning the country would naturally be: *Norumbega*, in the sense of belonging to Nor'mbega or Norway.

We have seen how well known was the country of Norumbega, extending from Rhode Island to the St. Lawrence. We have heard the Norumbega River described by all who saw it as one of the most beautiful in the world. The city of Norumbega figures on innumerable maps, and Ingram, the sailor, in 1569, tells that it was three-quarters of a mile long.

Then with the dilution of the Norse blood

came the decline. In 1583 Bellinger, a friend of Hakluyt, visited the city and found eighty houses covered with bark of trees ; an extensive commerce still being carried on there.

In 1604 Champlain was conducted by the natives of the neighborhood to the remains of Norumbega, but with visions of Paris and the cities of the old world to recall, he refused to believe in the place, and having sought it vainly on the Penobscot in Maine, he struck out all mention of the city and country in his map of 1632.

The dam.

In 1631, when Winthrop came, he found the falls caused by the dam which is now before us at Watertown. It is constructed of rounded field boulders, as the water breaking through several years ago, exposed the structure to view.

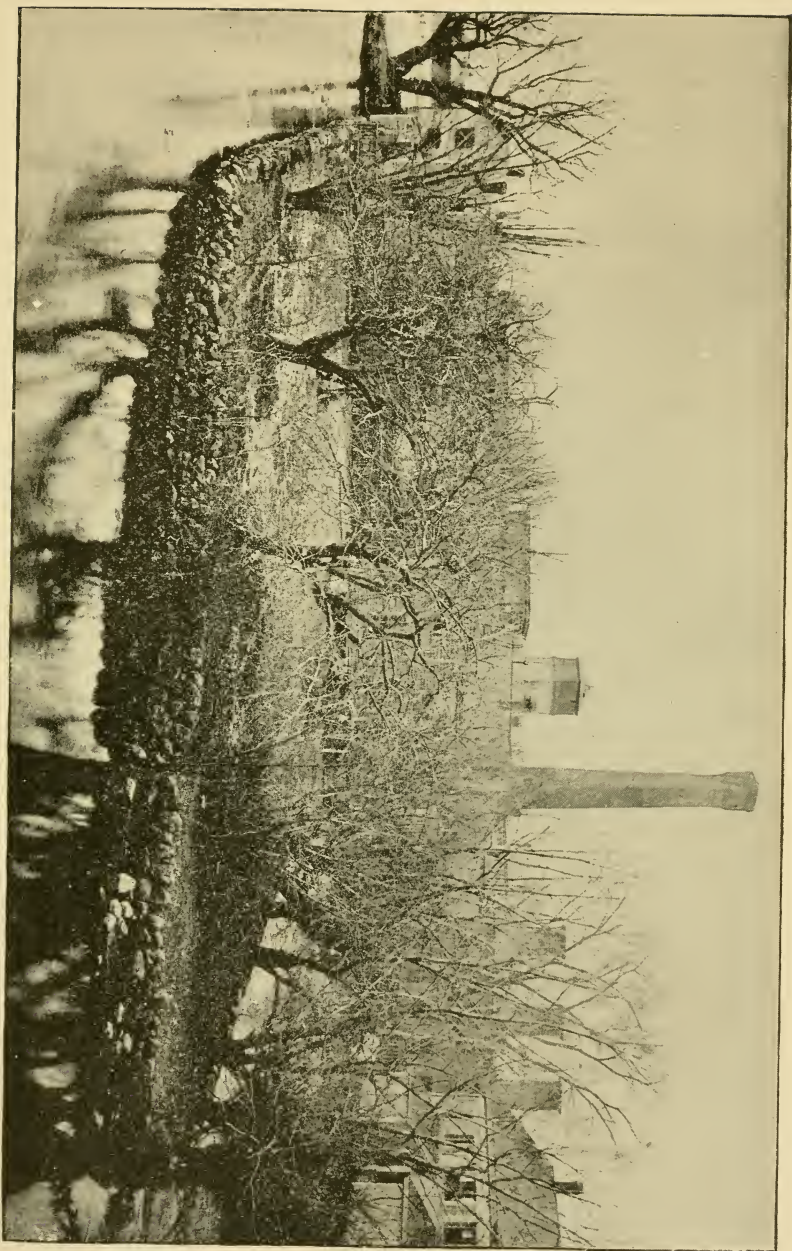
Docks and wharves.

The docks are plainly discernible, walled channels between the islands, these islands once being wharves where the māsur wood was loaded, the dried salmon and the furs and skins.

A house where Washington slept.

While historically inclined we can look over behind us as we stand facing the dam, and the first house beyond the bridge is the one in which Washington slept the last night before he took command of his forces in Cambridge. This is said to be authentic.





Dam, docks and wharves of Ancient Norumbega.



Still facing the dam, if one looks up Watertown Street that borders the river on the left, the third house will present a blackened and weather-beaten corner. It is opposite the junction of Watertown and California Streets, and in this house continental paper money was manufactured by Paul Revere.

House where Paul Revere made continental paper money.

Then leaving the bridge, and walking down past Lewando's Dye Works, turning around the corner to the right, one soon reaches the flouring mill on the exact spot where a flouring mill has always stood ever since the days when the first one in New England, and possibly in America, was set up there. It is dependent upon the same water-power that was made use of in the first instance from the Norse dam.

The flouring mill.

There are accounts of weir-fishing; one hundred thousand fish being reported to have been caught in two tides, or one day. Roger Clapp, in 1630, bartered with the Indians for fish caught at the falls, before Winthrop found them in the following year.

Weir-fishing.

All these accounts presuppose the dam, without which the river would have glided along as smoothly as above.

The dam was there, and had been built by a people who had come and gone.

On to Fort  
Norumbega.

If we are to accomplish the tower in an afternoon with what we have already seen, we must turn away from Watertown, with its marvellous story and archæological interests, and wend our way through the picturesque little towns of Waltham and Weston. The drive is a delightful one, and the distance not more than five miles. When leaving Watertown Square we drive up Main Street with the Soldiers' Monument on our right, and as we continue, we pass, on our left, the first cotton mill of this country.

Soldiers'  
monument.

Waltham  
watch factories.

A little farther on and we leave the watch factories of Waltham to our left, the great brick buildings reaching to the edge of the river.

Upon arrival at the stone watering-trough in Waltham, you turn away from the Lincoln road and the one leading to Weston and Wayland, and take South Street.

On the left, some little distance up, is the Mt. Feake Cemetery and on the opposite side, after passing Beaver Brook, so named by Governor Winthrop in 1631, "because the beavers had shorn down divers great trees there, and made divers dams across the brook," is the handsome estate of Dr. Wm. Baker.

Upon his grounds, discernible from the high-

way, is a great rock upon which is a large high Adams' chair. stone, cleft asunder. This is historical and once lost has recently been found again.

In the early colonial days, Governor John Winthrop with three companions, one time journeyed up Charles River. As they pursued their way along the Indian trail they observed this cleft stone and found that four men could just pass through abreast.

In honor of the youngest member of their party, Adams Winthrop, the eldest son of the Governor's third wife, they named it "Adams' chair." This event was recorded, and then Adams' chair was lost. One read of it in history but it could not be found, until Professor Horsford, with his genius for revealing the secrets of the past, discovered it afresh before our eyes.

Boston Rock is also upon Dr. Baker's estate, Boston Rock. and was thus named by Governor Winthrop because it was the first point from which Boston could be descried in his route from Framingham.

The tower is easily reached, for crossing Stony Brook and passing the paper mill, the first mill where asbestos paper was made, one turns into the short private roadway to the left

The tower on  
the site of Fort  
Norumbega.

that leads directly to it. One can go by train from Boston by way of Fitchburg railroad to Robert's station near the tower.

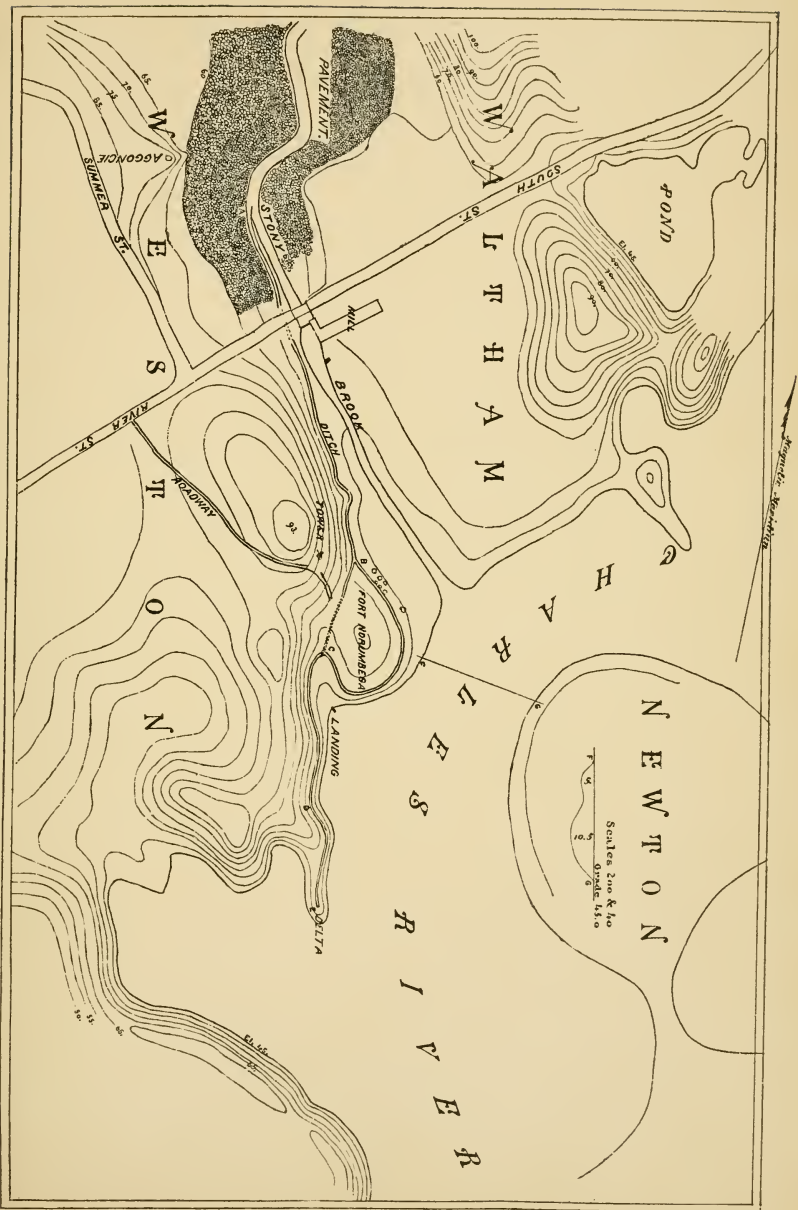
The remark was once made by a student of Nature rather than of Norse literature, that he supposed Professor Horsford chose that particular spot for the tower because of the beauties of the site.

How beautiful it is indeed! And as we slowly mount the tower steps the view is charming beyond description. The gently, undulating country, the trees with their varying foliage and the river flowing by, reflecting the loveliness of shores and sky. Ever and anon a light canoe steals softly along, or a fleet of boats.

Professor Horsford has erected the beautiful stone tower on the site of Fort Norumbega, for a time occupied by the Bretons some four hundred years ago, and as many years earlier as the seat of extensive fisheries and a settlement of the Northmen. The old fort was described to be at the junction of two streams, the Charles and Stony Brook. It was surrounded by a stockade, and a ditch which still remains.

If you start from the tower and go down to the left, you can follow the ditch nearly to the paper mill, indeed it curves around and is con-





Map of ditch at Fort Norumbega.





tinued across South Street, the road past the mill, towards the reservoir.

Then retracing your steps ; from the tower to the right, you can follow it until it finally ends in a delta five hundred or more feet away. This ditch is in places ten or twelve feet deep, much of it graded and carefully paved with rounded boulders on the bottom and sides.

From the literature on the subject and his own deductions, Professor Horsford drove from his home in Cambridge to the spot, nine miles away, and found the remains of the fort on his first visit.

He has purchased a number of acres of land, so that the historic spot is safe and the beautiful Norman tower stands as a magnificent and graceful monument to his convictions.

At the base of the tower is set a stone mortar which was unearthed upon the grounds, and is such as the Northmen used in Norway in very early times to grind their corn.

A stone mortar found upon the grounds.

The evidences of an extensive industry in fishery are revealed in the graded areas, some four acres in extent, carefully paved with rounded field boulders. These are on the opposite side of the road from the tower, adjacent to the Cambridge Water Works, and in a

Paved areas used in the fisheries industry.

great measure submerged by the water of the reservoir. Upon this pavement the fish were spread to dry; and the stones heated all day by the sun retained much of the warmth through the night and kept the fish at a more even temperature with less danger of spoiling.

It was by the old fort that Professor Horsford entered the pathway that led him to the vast secrets which he has unfolded to us one after another.

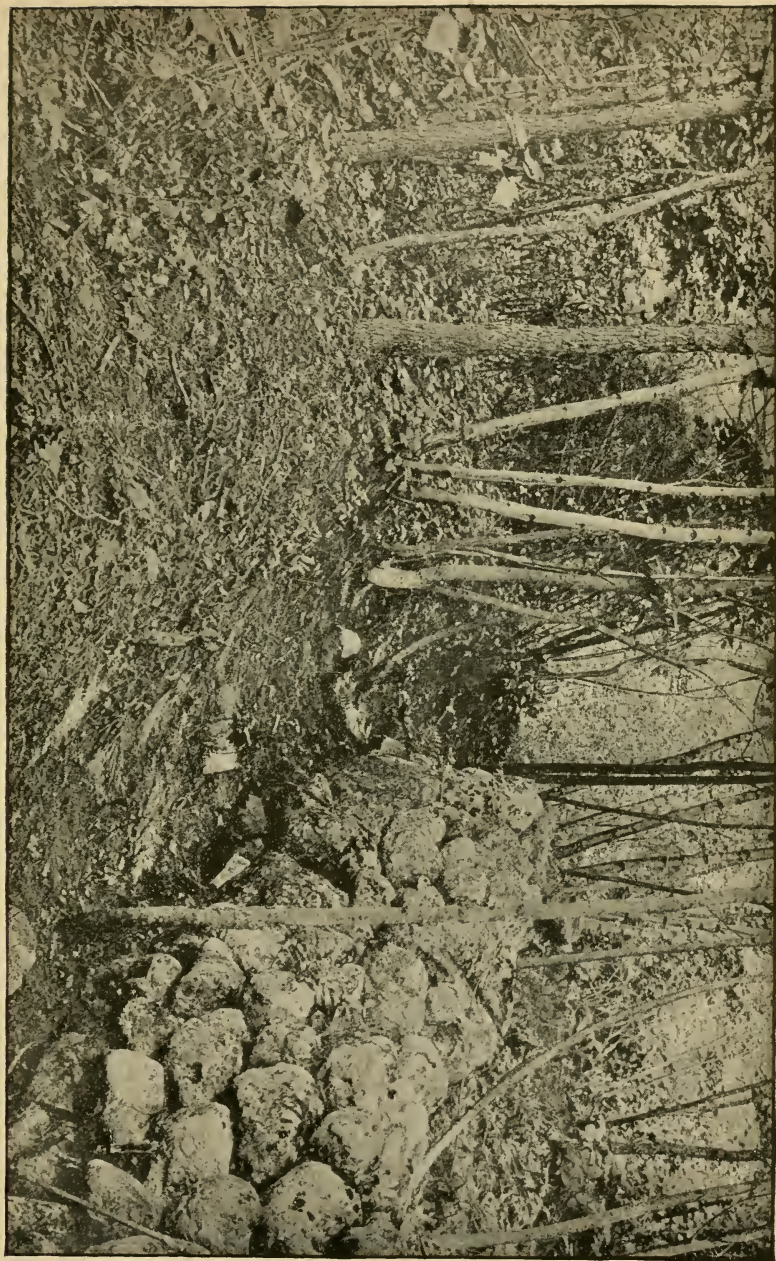
To the stone-walled ditch at Stony Brook.

If one has time to continue his drive a little, let him go on from the tower up Summer Street until he reaches Stony Brook station on the Fitchburg railroad.

This will allow one to make nearly a circuit of the water-works and the trip is just so much the more enjoyable.

Or a pleasant excursion can be made by taking a train in Boston at the Fitchburg depot for Roberts, and after a visit to the tower, board the train again for Stony Brook, the next station. Upon arrival at Stony Brook, a short walk up the road that leads past the station brings one to a wooded hill on the right, and ascending this for a few steps one comes almost immediately upon a stone-walled ditch which one can follow through a charming bit of wood for some distance.

Ditch at Stony Brook Station





It finally leads up to a dam and these ditches and dams can be found all through the valley of the Charles, serving as they did the māsur-wood industry.

The blocks of wood were floated down the streams or their tributaries and then canals or ditches were dug to transport them to the larger streams and ultimately to the Charles, where, stopped by the boom dam, they were dried and stored for shipment at the city and seaport of Norumbega.

There can be no lovelier excursion for a fair day in spring-time or in the bright autumnal weather with its unbounded wealth of color, than to take a boat at the landing on the river bank near the tower.

Down the  
river by boat  
from Fort  
Norumbega.

One may be procured on the opposite shore of Newton, at Riverside, if you have not your own, and leaving Fort Norumbega with its paved ditches and evidences of extensive fisheries, you can go down our Charles, the Norumbega River of other days, until, with a carry around the dam at Waltham, you approach the site of the olden city on its banks.

The boat, if a light one, can also be carried around the Watertown dam, the Norse dam of rounded field boulders, and continuing past the



Stone walls  
and terraces  
below Norum-  
bega.

docks and wharves, passing under the bridge where the tablet is placed, a little farther on you can obtain an unobstructed view of the stone walls below Watertown, and extending to the opening meadows near the United States Arsenal.

They are better preserved and repaired on the north side, although in places they have been removed or undermined.

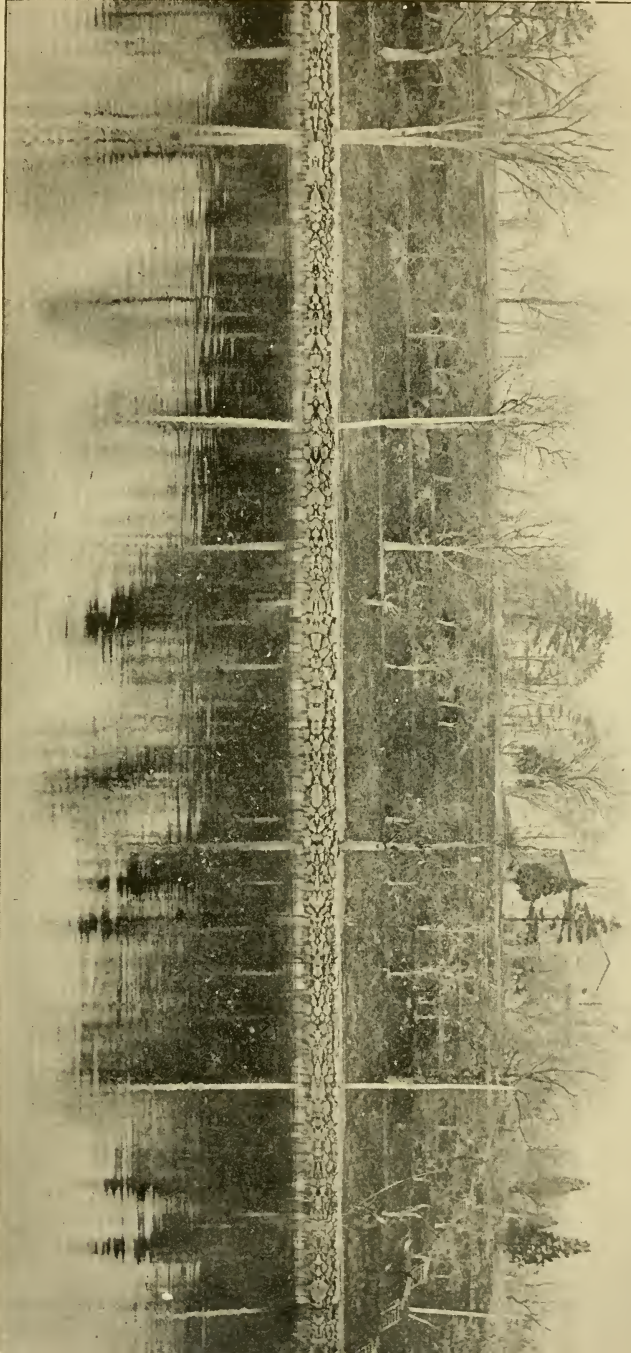
The terraces which rise above the walls are well worthy of inspection and are extremely interesting. They are sharply defined, and here and there very old trees grow out from their edges, having sprung from seeds that lodged there.

The distance from the walls to the first terrace is quite enough to have given space for games, wrestling, or other pastimes, and as the Northmen were exceedingly fond of swimming, performing wonderful feats of strength and endurance under water, these terraces might have afforded opportunity for an extended view up and down the river during such performances.

Remains of  
ancient  
theatre.

One can also land near the Arsenal, and half a mile away to the east, towards West Newton, there are the remains of an ancient theatre with terraces nearly as well defined.

Then, returning to your little craft once more, continue down the river until, approach-



Walls and terraces on North bank of river below Norumbega.





ing Cambridge, you round "the south-western promontory," from beyond which the Skraelings issued upon their visits to Thorfinn.

Down the bit of river that flows from "south-east to north-west," as required by the saga of Thorfinn, you come once more to the site of Leif's house and his landing-place, all these points being the only ones on the river to which the language of the sagas fit.

Then lazily float down through the marshes that in the sunlight have all the glory and color of autumn foliage. As Lowell sung :

"Dear marshes . . .

From every season drawn of shade and light.

"In spring they lie one broad expanse of green,  
O'er which the light winds run with glimmering feet,

Here, yellower stripes track out the creek unseen,  
There, darker growths o'er hidden ditches meet ;

And purpler stains show where the blossoms crowd,

As if the silent shadows of a cloud

Hung there becalmed, with the next breath to fleet."

A little farther on, and Boston, reminding one of Venice, is before you.

Only the most salient points of the Northmen's sojourn in this country have been touched upon, and all these, if one does not loiter too long, may be accomplished in a day.

A visit to the points that have been made

permanently secure to us through the love and labor of Professor Horsford, will incite a desire for further knowledge and investigation, and all our thanks are due to him for clearing away the mists that hung over the sagas.

Let every one read his "Discovery of the Ancient City of Norumbega," "The Land-fall of Leif Erikson," "The Defences of Norumbega," and "The Problem of the Northmen."

They will bear most careful and thorough study, and are grown almost priceless, since he who wrote them has so suddenly and recently left us.

Another very precious book is, "Vineland the Good," by Arthur Middleton Reeves, a young and gifted linguist and author, who was the victim of a dreadful railroad accident a little more than two years ago.

The volume is handsomely and expensively brought out, and contains translations and facsimiles of the original sagas after they were put upon parchment.

A posthumous work of Professor Horsford, soon to be issued from the press, is entitled "Leif's House in Vineland"; and this will give an account of the excavations that have been made and what they have disclosed.







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